

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2891
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

UNCLAS OUAGADOUGOU 4025

AID/W FOR AFR/DAA NORTH AND AFR/SFWA SHEAR

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: CDO/OUAGADOUGOU PRP REVISIONS BY EPRC

1. CDO PLEASED WITH POSITIVE PROJECT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
ON TOP PRIORITY AGRICULTURAL HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
(686-0221).

2. ALSO PLEASED WITH GENERALLY POSITIVE RESULTS IN EXTREMELY
IMPORTANT VOLTA VALLEY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (686-0222) REVIEW BY
PROJECT COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, DISTURBED BY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
THAT PRP BE REWRITTEN. AVV, AS GOUV IMPLEMENTING AGENCY FOR
OCHO-FREED AREAS DEVELOPMENT, CONTINUOUSLY INUNDATED WITH
VISITORS, STUDY TEAMS, DESIGN TEAMS, OBSERVERS, RESEARCHERS, ETC.,
ETC. TO SEND NOW DESIGN TEAM TO FIELD TO DO ANOTHER PRP APPEARS
NOT ONLY WASTEFUL AID DESIGN TALENT AND MONEY, BUT WILL INSURE
THAT AID WILL HAVE INFLECTED FOUR DESIGN TEAM VISITS ON AVV FOR
ONE PROJECT (PID, 2 PRP'S, PP). IN VIEW RELATIVELY
STRAIGHT-FORWARD QUESTIONS RAISED BY PROJECT COMMITTEE,
STRONGLY URGE INTERIM REPORT MECHANISM (AS CUSTOMARY IN
LA BUREAU) BE USED IN LIEU NEW PRP. IN INTERIM REPORT,
CDO WITH SOME REDSO ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE ABLE OBTAIN
NECESSARY INFO TO RESOLVE ISSUES RAISED AND SECURE APPROVAL
PRP AS WRITTEN AND AS SUPPLEMENTED BY INTERIM REPORT.

3. DISAPPOINTED WITH PROJECT COMMITTEE REVIEW OF NIENA-
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DIONKELE RICE PROJECT (FORMERLY CALLED IRRIGATED RICE

686-0224). THIS CILSS-SPONSORED PROJECT WAS ONE OF THOSE PRESENTED TO DONORS BY UNSO AT JULY 1975 GENEVA MEETING AND WAS ONE OF TWO PROJECTS FOR UPPER VOLTA EXPRESSLY SELECTED BY THEN AFR/AA ADAMS AS SUITABLE FOR AID SUPPORT. PROJECT HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF MULTI-YEAR DETAILED FEASIBILITY STUDY BY FAC-FUNDED FRENCH FIRMS OF SCET AND ORSTOM. PRP BASED PRIMARILY ON REVIEW THIS EXTREMELY LENGTHY AND VERY DETAILED FRENCH LANGUAGE REPORT, WHICH WAS UNFORTUNATELY NOT PRATICABLE TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO PROJECT COMMITTEE (CONSISTS OF 6 TO 8 VOLUMES).

4. PROJECT COMMITTEE OBJECTIONS WERE BASICALLY TWO: FIRST PRP DID NOT SPELL OUT DETAILS OF TRAINING AND SUPPORTING FARMERS IN RELATIVELY NEW RICE CULTURE OTHER THAN TO SPECIFY IT WOULD BE UNDER CONTROL OF LOCAL (BOBO-DIOULASSO) ORD. AS GOUV IS STILL IN VERY INITIAL STAGES OF PLANNING FOR THIS PROJECT, DETAILS OF THIS TYPE OF IMPLEMENTATION HAVE NOT YET BEEN WORKED OUT. IT IS EVIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT GOUV IS INTERESTED IN THIS PROJECT AND THAT IT HAS THE CAPACITY TO WORK OUT AN EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, AS IT HAS ALREADY DONE FOR THE KOU VALLEY IRRIGATED RICE PROJECT AND SEVERAL OTHER SIZEABLE EXPLOITATIONS. THIS IS ASPECT OF PROJECT THAT CAN BE READILY WORKED OUT DURING PP STAGE AND DOES NOT REPEAT NOT JUSTIFY TOTAL PROJECT DISAPPROVAL AT THIS STAGE. AT LEAST, CDO WOULD HAVE SEVERE DIFFICULTY IN PERSUADING GOUV THAT PROJECT'S REJECTION ON THIS BASIS WAS NOT ARBITRARY.

5. SECOND OBJECTION IS MORE SERIOUS, I.E., ARE THE BENEFITS WORTH THE VERY CONSIDERABLE COST. ON BASIS OF PRP, THIS ISSUE IS NOT EASILY RESOLVED. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE CILSS/UNSO GENEVA MEETING BACKGROUND, THE EXPENSIVE AND HIGHLY DETAILED FEASIBILITY STUDY ALREADY MADE, THE GOUV MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SANON'S HIGH DEGREE OF INTEREST, AND THE RELATIVELY PRELIMINARY AND TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS OF REDSO-PREPARED PRP, SUGGEST THAT RATHER THAN PEREMPTORILY SCRAP PRORJECT COMPLETELY, ACTION ON PRP BE DEFERRED AND CDO, WITH REDSO COLLABORATION, BE AUTHORIZED TO WORK WITH GOUV TO AMPLIFY PROJECT POSSIBILITES AND OPTIONS, OF WHICH THERE ARE NUMEROUS VARIATIONS WITHIN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PROJECT, TO DETERMINE WITH SOME FINALITY WHETHER PROJECT IN ANY OF ITS VARIOUS POSSIBLE FORMS CAN BE CONSIDERED PROPERLY FUNDABLE BY AID. THIS AUTHORITY TO REVISE THE PRP, RATHER THAN ABANDON PROJECT WITHOUT RECOURSE, WILL GREATLY AID CDO CHANGES OF EITHER CONVINCING AID/W THE PROJECT IS FEASIBLE OR DEMONSTRATING TO GOUV THAT PROJECT IS NOT, WHILE STILL RESPECTING THE CILSS/UNSO UNDERTAKING AT THE GENEVA MEETING.

6. ALSO RELEVANT IS POTENTIAL IBRD INTEREST THIS PROJECT. DURING CDO AID/W CONSULTATION, IBRD PROGRAMMING TEAM VISITED UPPER VOLTA, SPECIFICALLY TO EXAMINE, AMONG OTHER PROJECT POSSIBILITIES, PROPOSED IRRIGATION PROJECTS. TEAM DID NOT EXAMINE NIENA-DIONKELE DUE AID'S EXPRESSED INTEREST, BUT IN LIGHT AID/W DEVELOPMENTS, LOCAL IBRD REP HAS EXPRESSED RENEWED INTEREST. KEEPING PRP ALIVE AT THIS POINT WOULD ALLOW CDO EXPLORE JOINT FINANCNG WITH IBRD IN OUAGA. THESE FACTORS APPEAR TO CDO TO MAKE STRONG CASE FOR AID/W OPENING DOOR TO PRP REVISION, WHICH IN THIS CASE, UNLIKE THAT OF VOLTA VALLEY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, SEEMS TO BE PROPER APPROACH TO ADMITTEDLY COMPLEX ISSUES.
GRAHAM

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